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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

25X1

COUNTRY	North Korea	REPORT	25X1
SUBJECT	Movies Shown in North Korea	DATE DISTR.	3 October 1955
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1. movies shown in North Korea fell into two categories, documentary and those produced to amuse and entertain. The documentary films were released in the form of news reels and usually were concerned with scenes of North Korean Peoples' Army personnel, the field activities of the Chinese Communist Forces, and the erection of bridges and homes by engineers. Public reaction to both kinds of movies depended upon the political sympathies of the viewers. Communists generally received the movies with bursts of applause, showing genuine interest and ostensibly accepting the stories presented as being true. Anti-Communists, who went to the movies for lack of something better to do, were generally not interested in the story, nor were they swayed by the propaganda line which was interwoven into the scenario. People who had some knowledge of the West were inclined to laugh at the stories presented in the movies. 25X1

2. Some typical movies shown are described as follows:

"SS CHANGSU Bound For The Port of Marudoru"

This Soviet-produced film was shown The plot of the story is concerned with the merchant ship, SS CHANGSU, fully ladened with relief and aid goods from Russia which is proceeding to the port of Marudoru. The vessel is attacked by a cruising United States submarine and is destroyed. 25X1

"Meeting on the Elbe River"

This Soviet-produced film was shown It tells the story of Germany at the time of her surrender when the country was divided and occupied by Russian and Allied armies. Russian and American forces were friendly and fought side by side to defeat their common foe, Germany. Every effort to strengthen the bonds of friendship between Russians and Americans was exercised by the Russians. Then the United States forces dispatched a woman agent to the Russian Military Sector charged with ferreting out military secrets. Since the Russians were only desirous of establishing a peaceful Germany, however, there were no military secrets to be learned. 25X1

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3. One movie produced by the Chinese Communist Forces, which was shown [redacted] told the story of a woman agent dispatched by Nationalist China to work in a factory in Peiping. Impressed with the sincerity of purpose of the Chinese Communist regime, she undergoes a change of heart and turns herself in to Communist authorities. She then becomes a loyal supporter of the regime. 25X1 25X1

4. Dramatic presentations are rigidly restricted. Not only the ideas but also the wording of the scenarios must conform to the current political concepts accepted by the regime and words considered offensive because they are in common usage in South Korea are struck out. Operatic presentations are favored by the government in preference to the drama.[1]

1. [redacted] Comment. This is an attempt on the part of the government to completely eradicate the production of drama, at least in its present form. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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